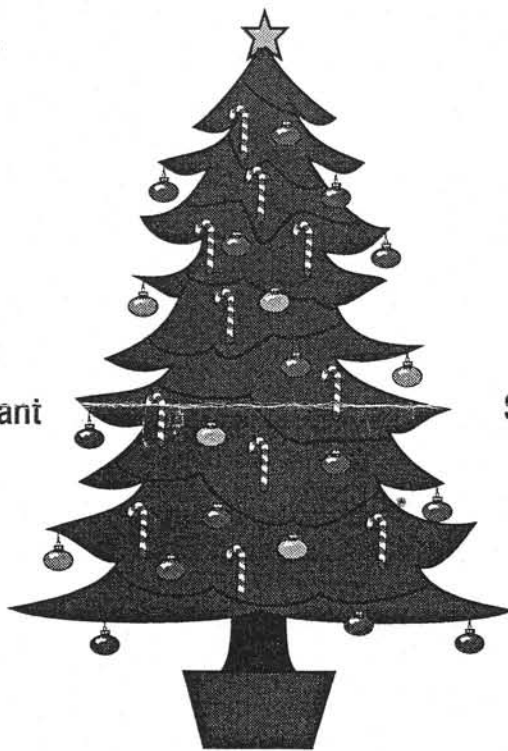


ALDECC 1996/97



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Sheryl Gillespie
Carmel McCartin
Lyn Higginson

David Verity
Ian Purtill
Nikki Nye

Jeff De Jersey
Celwyn Curtis
Kevin Gough

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Daisy Hill QLD 4127

GEOFF JOHNSON
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Killarney Heights NSW 2087

BRIAN McLACHLIN
6 Seacrest Avenue
Blackmans Bay TAS 7052

Annual Subscription: \$15

Due Date: 1 February, 1997

Joining Fee: \$5 (plus Annual Subscription of \$15)

Membership is open to extended tour coach crew employed for a period not less than 12 months full time (full time casual for hosties and cooks), on tours of a duration of 7 days or more (5 days or more for Tasmanian crew).

ARE YOUR ALDECC SUBS NOW DUE???



If at the time of preparing this newsletter, our records indicate you to be unfinancial, an X will appear in this square. Orange is one year overdue. Green is two years overdue.



CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

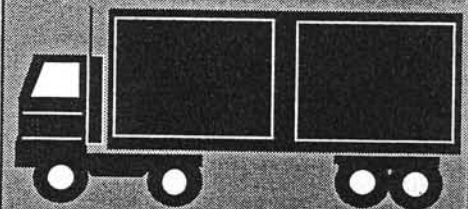
Please advise our Secretary of the change



LOGO ITEMS

Iron-on Transfers - Black or White	\$3.00
Transfers and Stickers	\$5.00
Replacement Badges	\$5.00

Please place your orders with the Secretary
Cheques or money orders payable to ALDECC Inc.
** Remember to include your postal address! **



Truck and Bus

Subscriptions now due

for 1997

ONLY \$18.00

Payable to ALDECC

FROM THE COMMITTEE

WELCOME TO OUR LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 1996

The plans for our 1997 reunion are almost all in place. The price is \$110 for the full weekend, \$85 for one night, \$40 for children 5 to 15 years and no charge for under 5 years. Remember if you have babies they need to have their own beds with them. We have the babysitter and helper organised for the full weekend. Guess who?? Our very first BABY to come to ALDECC!! Simone Grant!! Feel OLD? There will be a video machine so bring a video your kids would like to share with the others.

YOU WILL SEE ON THE ALDECC INVITATION THAT THE PICK UP POINT FOR THE COACH HAS CHANGED!! THE GAS & FUEL IS NO MORE SO THE NEW POINT OF PICK UP IS IN ST. KILDA ROAD OPPOSITE THE CONCERT HALL!! THERE IS A BUS PARKING ZONE THERE. THE COACH IS LANANDA WITH CELWYN CURTIS BEHIND THE WHEEL!!

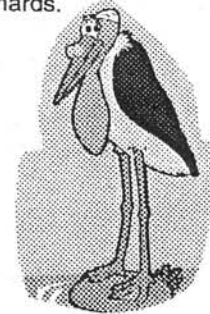
The following committee members are due to stand down at this AGM: Sheryl Gillespie, Carmel McCartin, Lyn Higginson, Dave verity, President Kevin Bryant and Secretary Barb Conner. Remember the next group to be elected will be there for our BIG 20 year party.

The committee wishes to thank all the members who contacted us about Lance Rust (Rusty) and the DOOR. I should have said in our plea that I knew the door made it to Adelaide as we had it on our coach! It was from that point which was unknown. Well, thanks to a phone call to Kevin we have tracked down Rusty. He sent his regards to everyone. Would love to here from people: LANCE RUST PHONE 07 6634228 OR SEND A NOTE C/O KAIMKILLENBUN CARAVAN PARK, 3 MOFFATT ST, DALBY FORWARD, 4406. This does not mean we have found the door yet. You see, it made it to Greyhound in Brisbane, but was never collected. We have it on good authority that one of the drivers took it home and has it in his bar. We have Tim Young on the job and will let you know the results when we have them.

ON A SAD NOTE: Barbara Richards passed away after a battle with cancer. She was able to see her daughter married, but not long afterwards passed on. Barb was married to Barry Richards.

THE STORK HAS DROPPED IN AGAIN!

Timothy James Higginson was born on October 16, 1996
Fran and Garry are very good at making boys!
Daniel and Joshua have a new brother to teach the ropes.
Grandpa is very proud! Not to mention Mum & Dad!



Well it's finished!

"My first effort at the Pulitzer Prize is now in the hands of the Fremantle Arts Press to see what they think. About seven hundred and fifty pages. About one hundred and sixty nine thousand, seven hundred and forty words, which comes to about four hundred pages in book print. I finally received a reply from someone living in the East, and hope to have them write a forward to my book. "The Coach Crew" will, hopefully, soon be available by Mail."

All the best for the festive season,
Graham Pyper

REQUEST FROM JOHN BLANCH

Is there anyone thinking about coming to Melbourne on Dec. 24, 1996 from the Brisbane area? Johns son, Christian is driving down and is looking for some company. He would be returning about Jan. 3 or 4, 1997. If you can help, ring Christian on 07 5539 2120.

Stuart Bowker came out of retirement to do a 9 day Travel Marvel tour. Who does he run into in Coober? Kerry Smith! The question asked was who let him out without adult SUPERVISION? He rang half his phone book at midnight! Coober has that effect on people.

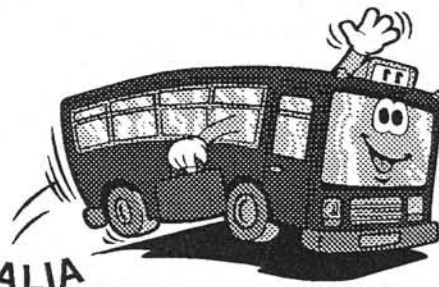
Mr. Tony Keatly was in Alice riding a MOTOR BIKE!! Two questions.

1. HOW'S THE BUM CHUM??
2. HOW DO YOU FIT JULIE AND 3 KIDS ON A BIKE? LEAVE THEM IN BRISBANE WITH SMUTS KIDS!!!

Did you know about the new TV program called ROOS? It starts at DUSK! ASK BIG M ABOUT IT.

SEE YOU AT THE ALDECC REUNION JAN. 31, FEB. 1 & 2, 1997!!

MESSAGES FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA



MARLA

The end of an era! Marla has been sold after 18 years of building and developing a DREAM!!!

The beginning of Nov. 96 saw many old staff, customers, present and past coach crews and many locals all join at Marla for a PARTY!! A chance to send Greg on his way with a happy note from his MATES. Many made their own way there and thanks to Lance Grenda, some took advantage of a trip arranged from Melbourne and return on the well known Lananda Coach Captained by many years of experience, Lance Grenda, Celwyn Curtis, KB and John (Clouch Break) Blanch. The trip took 25 hours with stops one way.

At Marla the bar takings for both Friday and Saturday was \$9,000. Plus!! This led me to look up the word DRUNK in my THESAURUS and to my surprise it lists over 60 meanings for the word.

The following list makes for interesting reading. If you were there and you are not on the list count yourself lucky!!

DRUNKEN	NEV (LEROY) PENNY	FOND OF DRINKING-OFTEN DRUNK
INTOXICATED	CELWYN CURTIS	EXCITE OR ELATE BEYOND CONTROL
INEBRIATED	COLIN	HABITUAL DRUNKARD
BESOTTED	NOLA BLANCH	TO MUDDLE OR STUPEFY ESP. WITH LIQUOR
MELLOW	THELMA OAKLEY	GENTLY & MATURELY DIGNIFIED
TIPSY	JENNY SCHMIDT	SLIGHTLY INTOXICATED, INCLINE TO LEAN
SOTTED	BARB CONNER	DRINK INTOXICATED LIQUOR ESP. STRONG
CRAPULENT	LANCE GREENDA	INDULGING IN ALCOHOL-RESULT DRUNKENNESS
CRAPULOUS	DIRK CAMPBELL	VERY DRUNK INEBRIATED DRUNKEN HEADACHE
IN ONE'S CUP	BARRY LINKY	FLAVOURED WINE, CIDER ETC CHILLED
IN DRINK	BERNIE GREALEY	TAKE ALCOHOL TO EXCESS, GUZZLE
PIXILATED	JOHN BLANCH	BEWILDERED, CRAZY, IN A TRANCE
SOAKED	BRUCE	DRINK PERSISTENTLY, BOOZE, VERY DRUNK
"1" OVER EIGHT	JOHN GULLOCK	LOPSIDED, UNBALANCED, COCKEYED
ROARING DRUNK	MEL TODD	VERY DRUNK, NOISY
WORSE FOR DRUNK	BRIAN NORRIS	DAMAGED BY USE, FAIRLY DRUNK
SOUSED	HAZEL NORRIS	DIP, PLUNGE, DRINKING BOUT, DRUNK
UNDER-INFLUENCE	PETER SEVEREN	AFFECTED BY ALCOHOLIC DRINK, SWAY
HIGH AS A KITE	BUSHY	ELATED, MARY, INTOXICATED BY ALCOHOL
BOOZY	SHARKIE	INTOXICATED, ADDICTED TO DRINK
WELL OILED	JIM HAYWOOD	DRINK,, EASILY EXPRESSED, HABITUAL USE
SOZZLED	PAUL	MIX SLOPPILY, VERY DRUNK
TIDILY	MACCA	DRUNK, INTOXICATED, HIGH, WOOLY
WELL AWAY	HAZEY	FAST ASLEEP OR DRUNK
STEWED	ALAN OAKLEY	BURN MIDNIGHT OIL, TIZZY
HAPPY	HELEN PIKE	SLIGHTLY DRUNK, INCLINED TO USE EXCESS
JOLLY	JAMMO	CHEERFUL, GOOD HUMOURED, MERRY
ELEVATED	GREG OAKLEY	RAISE THE SPIRITS OF
SHOT	NEIL BRETT	TAKE ALCOHOL TO EXCESS
UNDER THE TABLE	BRADMAN	AT THE FOOT OF, STATE OF UNCONSCIOUS
TANKED (UP)	TOM SOUTH	DRINK HEAVILY, BECOME DRUNK
MERRY	SUE	JOYOUS, FULL OF LAUGHTER, SLIGHTLY DRUNK
PIE EYED	DIGBY GILES	BOOZE UP, BINGE, DRUNK
BLIND	WAYNE	HEAVY DRINKING BOUTS, EXTREMELY DRUNK
BOTTLED	KATHERINE	HIT THE BOTTLE, MOTHERS RUN
FRIED	LINDA	COOKED, FATIGUE DRUNK
FULL	LOUIS CAMPBELL	HAVING OR HOLDING ABUNDANCE OF DRINK
LEGLESS	OWEN PARKER	THE WORSE FOR WEAR, KNACKERED
LOADED	VIC	STUFFED FULL,

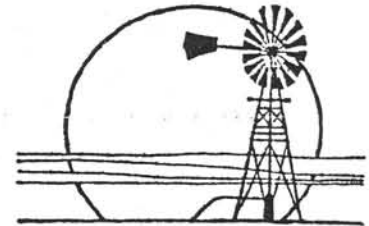
PARALYTIC	CHALKY	VERY DRUNK, INACTIVE, CRIPPLED
PICKLED	MARGO	PRESERVED IN ALCOHOL, DRUNK
SQUIFFED	TRACEY WHITE	SLIGHTLY DRUNK, ELATED WITH JOY
PLASTERED	MAX BURGESS	RENDERED INCAPABLE BY ALCOHOL
SMASHED	BOB DALEY	GO UNDER, INTOXICATED
BLOTTO	ERNIE GILES	VERY DRUNK, UNCONSCIOUS FROM DRINKING
FULL OF GROG	STRING BEAN	LOADED, STUFFED, CHOCK-A-BLOCK
SHICKER	KEVIN LAMB	FOND OF DRINKING ALCOHOL
SLOSHED	ROB GREGORY	QUANTITY OF LIQUID DRINK

The next word I looked up was SOBER as there are those who don't partake of ALCOHOL

STAID	ALISON GOODCHILD	OF QUIET & STEADY CHARACTER, DIGNIFIED
DISPASSIONATE	WENDY WINEN	CALM, IMPARTIAL, (ON THE WATER WAGON)
COLLECTED	KEVIN BRYANT	CALM & COOL, NOT PERTURBED OR DISTRACTED

If anybody attending the next ALDECC REUNION knows why the soles of Aboriginals feet are white, please see Nola Blanch. Here in lies another story!!

CHEERS HAZEY



GUNBARREL HIGHWAY CROSSING

In July of this year Garry Higgo & Mary Meyer ran a tour across the Gunbarrel Highway. We left Melbourne travelling via the Flinders Rangers and the Oodnadatta Track to Marla. We travelled along the Victory Downs Road past Mulga Park Station, the start of the Gunbarrel Highway. It heads west through Amata at Mulga Park, but we went through to Curtin Springs and onto the Rock.

Next morning we left the Rock via the Olgas and headed along the Docker River Road. We stopped off at Lasseter's Cave before continuing on to Rebecca Creek for lunch on what was the original Sandy Blight Road. A few kilometres past this spot is where you again meet the Gunbarrel and turning right takes you to Giles. Now I can see why anyone who has gone from Ayers Rock to Laverton, say they have been on the GUNBARREL. All 30-35 kilometres of it!! BIG DEAL!! This section of the road is nearly as good as the Hume Freeway.

Giles Weather Station was a highlight for me. We arrived there mid afternoon and had an excellent guided tour of the station, learning about the equipment and the weather. We had a look at the Mess where Len Beadell did his pictures on the wall. The grader which Len Beadell used to help make the roads and the remains of the Blue Streak rocket which crashed are also here. The following morning we went back to see the weather balloon and tracking radar take flight. I found it very interesting and to anyone who hasn't been there before, if you get the chance go.

After all this excitement was over we left for Warburton where we arrived for lunch. Warburton is a very interesting dark sort of place. Plenty of unregistered vehicles with no glass or exhaust. (Need I elaborate?) After lunch we travelled a little further before turning onto the Heather Highway. The first 40 Kms. were fine but the next 40 are probably the worst 40 in Australia. However, we managed that with a few dramas and holding of breath, as the road is narrower than the coach. We then arrived at the intersection of the Gunbarrel. The road is very narrow, corrugated and has bad washouts for a coach and trailer to manage. The vegetation is beautiful with spinifex 6 feet high. I have never seen it that high before!!

We stopped at all Len's survey trees and markers and the Gary Highway Junction before camping at Camp Beadell. The following morning we climbed Mt. Beadell. As it isn't very high all climbed and enjoyed the view and read the information including the memorial placed there for Len Beadell in May 1996, 12 months after his death. We found the water hole at the back of Mt. Beadell and continued on our way.

We got stuck in the sand which was interesting for a while. Passed some four wheel drives travelling in the opposite direction. There was a look of amazement on their faces as they thought they were pretty cool on this track until they saw us. After a few mechanical problems we arrived at Carnegie Station late that afternoon. The Station is primitive, but the hospitality from Ian & Faye Smith is brilliant. They have a great place for travellers to stay over night. A good hot shower and a good nights sleep was all we needed before leaving for Wiluna.

We continued to Meekatharra, the Hamersley's, Port Headland and onto Broome for a well deserved rest for 3 nights. Home down the West Coast to Perth, Albany, Esperance, Kalgoorlie and due East to Melbourne. 33 days in all and a great Experience. When I got home I said I wouldn't be in a hurry to do it again and I'm sure the coach would swear at me if we were off again soon!!

I will do it again at the same time next year, but only 16 days. Anyone who wants to come, give us a call!!

Regards Garry Higginson

We wish to welcome our new member to ALDECC Windy Winen. Windy was on the road with Australian Pacific in the early 1980's.

